

FAMILY HISTORY

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THE CROKE (CROOK) FAMILY ANCESTERY WAS FORMERLY LeBlount ..1060 FROM FRANCE

Sir Alexander Croke states that he is now the representative branch of that ancient family, which had its origin from the Blondi or Blounts of Italy. Its patriarchs, the Count of Guiseness, claimed alliance with most of the Royal families of Europe, and consisted among the progenitors the emperors and kings of France, and Kings of Denmark and Rudolph III. Count of Guisness was Grandfather Sigeford, the Dane of first Count, Grandson of Harold, King of Denmark, who espoused Rosetta, Da. of Hugh II Count St. Poll and had three sons who accompanied the Conqueror Wm. Duke of Normandy, into England, one of whom returned to Normandy after peace was proclaimed. Sir Robert and Sir Wm. remained and partook of spoils of the conquest. Sir Robert received 13 Lordships of Lands in Suffolk. Sir Wm. received 6 Lordships of lands in Lincolnshire. Sir Robert head of Barony of Ixworth. The Great Grandson and lenial decendent of Sir Robert, Gilbert LeBlond, Lord of Ixworth married Agnes DeLisle, and had two Sons, Sir Wm. and Sir Stephen. Sir Wm. succeeded to the Barony of Ixworth. Ma. Cicely De Vere and had issue Wm. Baron of Ixworth, Standard Bearer to the army of the insurgente Barons under Simon DeMountford, Earl of Leicester, and was slain at the battle of Lewis, March 14th 1264. The Barons ward 1258 to 65, King Henry III reign. Wm. bringing to issue the male line of the Barony of Ixworth ceased, and his sisters became his co-heirs, Agnes Ma Robert DeValoirs, 2nd son of Gilbert LeBlond, Stephen living in 1189 Ma Marie, only Da and heirs of Sir Wm. LeBlount of Saxlingham, 4th in direct line of Sir Wm. Bro. of Sir Robert. Stephen had a son and heir, Sir Robt. LeBlount (died 1288) who Ma Isabell, Da of the Lord of Odensell and acquired with that lady the Manor of Belton in Rutlandshire. They had issue 1st-Ralph Sir, 2nd--Wm. Sir who Ma Isabell, supposed Da Sir Wm. Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and had one son Peter who died. D.S.P. another son Walter Sir of Rock who espoused Johanna, Sister and co-heir of Wm. DeSodinton and dying before 1331, was succeeded by his only surviving son John, Sir Sudington, who married 1st, Isabella Da. and heir of Sir Thomas DeMounjoy and by her (who Died in 1347) had a son, John Sir, and 2nd, from whom by his 1st wife, Julianna Fourhurst, descended the Blounts of Sodington now represented by Sir Edmund Blount Bart and his 2nd wife Isabella Da. and heiress of Sir Byron Cornwall.

The Blounts of Bromyard represented by John Blount esq. of Lea Hall in Worcestershire and the Blounts of Burton on Trent. He Was also ancestor of the extinct Blounts of Kent. Sir John Sodington Blount..2nd marriage Eleanor Da. of John Beauchamp of Heath and dying in 1358, left another son, Sir Walter who acquired from his brother Sir John (2nd) THE Mountjoy estate in 1374. Walter was father of Thomas (Sir) Blount, treasurer of Normandy in Henry V. reign 1388-1413 who left issue Sir Walter Blount created Lord Mountjoy. (in Burks extract Baronage) Sir Thomas above was ancestor of the Blounts of Iver and Maple Durham and represented by Michael Henery Blount esq. High Sheriffor Oxfordshire in 1832. Sir Robert Blount (see over the leaf) died in 1288 and was succeeded by Sir Ralph 1st son of above Lord of Belton in Rutland who recovered Lands in Saxlingham in the reign of Edward I, 1239-72. He espoused Cecilie Or Alicia Da. and

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co-heir of Sir John Lovit of Hampton Lovet in Worcestershire, and was succeeded by his son Sir Thomas Blount, Lord of Belton and Hampton Lovet. Sir Thomas married two times and had issue Sir Wm. and Sir Nicholes. Sir Thomas 2nd marriage Elizabeth Flourneaux and had other children who died. D.S.P. Sir Wm. was Lord of Belton, had a son Sir John Blount, Lord of Belton of city of London and Constable of the Tower, (Edward III Reign) that summoned the Parliament in the 1st year of that reign as Lord of Belton who with his Kinsman Nicholes were engaged in the attempt to restore Richard III to the throne in the year 1400, was hung and quartered, a cruel death. Nicholes his cousin was outlawed for taking part in restoration and fled to Italy. They entered the army of John Galiasso Viscompito, who was then at war with the Emperor and who eventually, after routing the army at battle of Brescia, drove the imperialists out of Italy. They acknowledged with gratitude the merits of the English and the splendid reward conferred upon them were worthy of the manifest of the house of Vixcompoti.

Nicholes LeBlount subsequently returned to England but in doing so adopted, changing his name as did several others of his companions, among them were John Carrington, changed to Smith and Wm. Fitzwilliams changed to English. Nicholes Blount took the cognomen of Croke (Harl Miss in the Bodleian Library) Mr. Croke Ma. Agnes Da. and heiress of John Haynes, by Alicia Athall. Was succeeded by his son James Croke alias LeBlount. He, James, had a son Heir Richard, Ma. Alicia, but of what family, not stated. Richard succeeded by son John Croke, esq. who was appointed in 1522 one of the six clerks of the court of Chancery, and in seven years after, obtained a patent for life as Comptroller and supervisor of the Hanaper. -- the same Court, in the reign of Edward VI 1537-47 (a discrepancy, one History says 1547-53). Sir John was constituted a master in Chancery in 1529. Master Croke purchased Estate and Manor of Chilton from Lord Zoucn and in 1539 bought the Crown Priory of Studly with all the possessions therein. He wed Prudencia III da. of Richard Cave (esq.) of Stratfor-on-Avon and sister to Ambroise Cave, Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster, a most intimate friend and near connection of the Lord Treasurer, Lord Burleigh. Sir John died in 1554 and was succeeded by his son Sir John Croke Knt. of Chilton, born 1530. Returned to Parliament for the borough of Southhampton 1573 and Bircks in 1574. Sir John ma. in 1448 Elizabeth da. of Sir Alaxander Unton and had issue of following--Sir John of Chilton and Studly, an able and eminent Lawyer who succeeded Sir Edmund Croke as Treas. of the Inner Temple in 1598, and was after appointed Recorder of London and chosen one of the representatives of that city. in the last memorable parliament of Queen Elizabeth. He was elected speaker of the house of commons, and the manner of his appointment has been curiously related by Sir Simmonds DeEwes in the first year of James I reign 1566-1603. He received the Honor of Knighthood and was made sargeant-at-law, and he afterwards constituted Kings Sargeant and Welsh Judge and he succeeded Sir John Popham as one of the justices of the Kings bench in the fifth of the same reign.

THE CROKE (CROOK) FAMILY ANCESTERY CONTINUED.....

The argument of Sir John Croke at the bar and discussion from testimony of which he received from the Lord Chancellor, Sir Christopher Hatton a bowl of Silver gift. Sir John Durham, he, he died 1619, left issue son Henery Croke Barrister-at-law, who ma. Miss Bennet of Honeywood and he left his deceased with several Daughters and only son Henery in Holy order D.D.wo inherited from his uncle George Crooke (Sir) the house and Estate of Waterstock.